



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STORM VICTIMS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AID

FEMA says County can get help for January storms

Homeowners, property owners and small businesses who suffered damages and losses from storms that battered the county earlier this year are now eligible for federal assistance, County officials announced today.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has determined that San Diego County property owners are eligible for individual assistance. Victims of the storms can apply for assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Hearing and speech impaired individuals can call 1-800-462-7585 (TTY).

Storm victims have until May 15, 2005 to file for assistance. Assistance will only be provided for individuals who suffered damage from rains that occurred from Dec. 27, 2004 through Jan. 11, 2005.

"This is great news for residents of our county," said Deborah Steffen, Director of the County Office of Emergency Services. "Many people suffered property damage from the storms and this action will help them."

Steffen said her office is mailing information on the disaster assistance available from FEMA to individuals who contacted OES with reports of damage.

In addition to the FEMA declaration, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proclaimed a State of Emergency for San Diego County as a result of storms in February. That declaration allows the County to potentially receive reimbursements for costs of debris removal and other expenses for the February storms. The County spent an estimated \$3.5 million on those storms.

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